

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 THE HA 02518 140354Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----141238Z 123081 /45

R 131155Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 481
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AEMBASSY LONDON 5279

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 2518

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC TECH NL
SUBJ: NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND URENCO

1. IN POST-LONDON SUMMIT'S CONVERSATION TODAY FOREIGN MINIS-
TER VAN DER STOEL RATIONALIZED INEVITABILITY OF DUTCH DECISION
TO ENLARGE ALMELO PLANT INFFURTHERANCE OF GERMAN/BRAZILIAN
CONTRACT.

2. VAN DER STOEL SAID DUTCH WERE CONTINUING TO FEEL PRESSURE
FROM GERMAN SIDE, AND SOMEWHAT LESS FROM BRITISH, TO MAKE
POSITIVE DECISION. PRESSURE WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "WAR OF
NERVES" IS ENTIRELY THROUGH URENCO CHANNELS AND NOT DIRECTLY
FROM GOVERNMENTS. HEEXPRESSED CONCERN OVER REPORT PUB-
LISHED LOCALLY THAT IF DUTCH CONTINUE DELAYING DECISION
FRG WILL BUILD ITS OWN ENRICHMENT PLANT. (REPORT ALLEGED THAT
IF GON FAILED TO DECIDE TO EXPAND GERMANS WOULD BUILD PLANT
ACROSS BORDER AT LINGEN.) HE MEANWHILE INTENDS TO UNDERTAKE
STEPS TO ASCERTAIN OFFICIAL POSITION OF FRG GOVERNMENT.
TO MY QUESTION HE DENIED ANOTHER PUBLISHED REPORT THAT
CALLAGHAN HAD WRITTEN LETTER URGING POSITIVE DECISION ON
GON.

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3. TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM BONN, LONDON AND THE HAGUE ARE
CONTINUING WORK ON DRAFT IAEA SPECIAL SAFEGUARDS TO GOVERN
STORAGE OF PLUTONIUM RESULTING FROM GERMAN/BRAZILIAN
ARRANGEMENTS. FOREIGN MINISTER POINTED OUT THESE WOULD HAVE
TO BE AGREED TO BY BRAZIL AND LEFT IN QUESTION WHETHER
THAT WOULD BE SIMPLE OR COMPLICATED UNDERTAKING. HE LEFT

LITTLE DOUBT HOWEVER THAT CONSORTIUM MEMBERS WERE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON PROPOSALS AND SEEMED TO ASSUME THAT EVENTUAL BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT COULD BE ACHIEVED IN TERMS WHICH HE HOPED WOULD NOT POSE PROBLEMS FOR USG. I REMINDED VAN DER STOEL THAT THE U.S. REMAINED SKEPTICAL THAT ANY TECHNICAL SAFEGUARDS, HOWEVER PERFECT, PROVIDED THE MEANS FOR GUARANTEEING NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS MATERIAL. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT IT POSED A DILEMMA FOR THOSE WITH THE BEST OF INTENTIONS.

4. EXPLAINING HOW DECISION WOULD HVE TO BE MADE, VAN DER STOEL SAID THAT HE COULD PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF AUTHORITY "I HAD WRITTEN FOR MYSELF" WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE CABINET EARLIER THIS YEAR BEFORE FALL OF THE GOVERNMENT. HE ASSURED ME THAT NO DECISION WOULD BE MADE "FOR AT LEAST A FORT NIGHT" WHICH I TOOK TO MEAN NOT BEFORE ELECTIONS, MAY 25. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITH PARLIAMENT BUT I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT HE EXPECTED THE DECISION WOULD BE SUPPORTED. HE PROMISED TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH US BEFORE ULTIMATE STEP IS TAKEN AND ASKED THAT WE KEEP HIM INFORMED OF ANYTHING WE CONSIDERED RELEVANT TO HIS PROBLEM.

5. AT ONE POINT VAN DER STOEL SAID THAT BOTH HE AND PM DEN UYL SHARED UNCOMFORTABLE FEELING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER DEPARTED LONDON IN BELIEF THAT FRG HAD AGREED TO PAUSE BEFORE TAKING NEXT STEPS TO COMPLETE BRAZILIAN CONTRACT AND THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WENT HOME ASSUMING THAT PRESIDENT HAD ACCEPTED INEVITABILITY OF DEAL BEING SOMSUMMATED AND WOULD INTERPOSE NO FURTHER USG OBJECTIONS.

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WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON THIS OR ANY OTHER POINT IN FOREGOING MESSAGE.
MCCLOSKEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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